

# OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTER- NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

*Edited by*

**FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.**

Secretary to the Commission

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## **OPINION 227**

Acceptance of the lectotype selected by Braun in 1901  
for the nominal species *Fasciola ovata* Rudolphi, 1803  
(Class Trematoda)



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# INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

## COMPOSITION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE RULING GIVEN IN OPINION 227

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*Secretary* : Mr. Francis Hemming, C.M.G., C.B.E. (*London, England*).

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### C. Alternate Members of the Commission at the Session held in Paris in 1948

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ACCEPTANCE OF THE LECTOTYPE SELECTED BY  
BRAUN IN 1901 FOR THE NOMINAL SPECIES  
"FASCIOLA OVATA" RUDOLPHI, 1803  
(CLASS TREMATODA)

**RULING :—**(1) Braun (1901) acted in strict conformity with Article 31 of the *Règles* when, on ascertaining, by reference to Rudolphi's original material of *Fasciola ovata* Rudolphi, 1803 (Class Trematoda), that that nominal species was a composite species containing two taxonomically distinct species, he selected one of those species to be the species to which the name *Fasciola ovata* Rudolphi, 1803, should adhere.

(2) The specific name *ovata* Rudolphi, 1803, as published in the combination *Fasciola ovata*, and as determined under (1) above, is hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* as Name No. 38.

I.—THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On 7th April 1938 Dr. G. Witenberg (*Hebrew University, Jerusalem*) submitted the following enquiry to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature as to the validity of the action by Braun (1901) in selecting a lectotype for the nominal species *Fasciola ovata* Rudolphi, 1803 (Class Trematoda) :—

**On the holotype of "Fasciola ovata" Rudolphi, 1803 (Class Trematoda, Order Digenea)**

By G. WITENBERG

(*Department of Parasitology, The Hebrew University, Jerusalem*)

M. Braun (1901, *Zbl. Bakt.* (Abt. 1) **29** : 12—19) found that the original vial containing specimens determined by Rudolphi as *Distoma ovatum* Rudolphi, 1809, *Entoz.* **2** (1) : 357 (= *Fasciola ovata* Rudolphi, 1803, *Archiv. Zool.* (Wiedemann) **3** (2) : 25) contained two species. One of these species was accordingly selected by Braun as being the species described by Rudolphi and the species so selected was treated by Braun as *Prosthogonimus ovatus* (Rudolphi).

Do the rules in the International Code provide for the selection of a lectotype in such a case ?

## II.—THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

2. The present application, which had been addressed by Dr. Witenberg to the late Dr. C. W. Stiles was forwarded on 6th June 1938 to Mr. Francis Hemming who in 1936 had succeeded Dr. Stiles in the Office of Secretary to the Commission. On receipt in London, these papers were given the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 126. It had not been found possible to advance the consideration of the present application by the time that the outbreak of war in Europe in September 1939 led to the evacuation of the records of the International Commission from London to the country as a precaution against the risk of destruction through air raids. The Secretariat in London was re-opened in 1942, and steps were immediately taken to establish the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* as a means for bringing to the attention of zoologists applications submitted to the International Commission for decision. Work was at once started on outstanding applications with a view to arranging for their publication in the newly established *Bulletin*. The present application was sent to the printer in September 1944, but, owing to difficulties arising from paper rationing, shortage of labour at the printing works and similar causes, publication did not actually take place until 26th June 1946 (Witenberg, 1946, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 1 : 176).

## III.—THE DECISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

3. One of the earliest acts in regard to the revision of the *Règles* taken by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature at its Paris Session was to revise and clarify the provisions of Article 31 relating to the selection of lectotypes for nominal species (Paris Session, 4th Meeting, Conclusion 11) (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 73—76)<sup>1</sup>. It was in the light

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<sup>1</sup> The provisions in Article 31 were further reviewed and amended by the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology at Copenhagen in 1953. The changes so made (1953, *Copenhagen Decisions zool. Nomencl.* : 72—78) did not however in any way affect the interpretation of that Article given by the International Commission in the present case at Paris in 1948.

of the decision of principle so taken that the International Commission considered the problem submitted by Dr. Witenberg at the Thirteenth Meeting of its Paris Session held at the Sorbonne in the Amphithéâtre Louis-Liard on Monday, 26th July 1948 at 1730 hours. The following is an extract from the Official Record of the Proceedings of the International Commission setting out the decision reached by it in regard to this case at the foregoing meeting (Paris Session, 13th Meeting, Conclusion 29) (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 386—387) :—

THE COMMISSION agreed :—

- (1) that Braun (1901) had acted in strict conformity with Article 31 of the *Règles* when, on ascertaining by reference to Rudolphi's original material of *Fasciola ovata* Rudolphi, 1803 (Class Trematoda, Order Digenea), that that species was a composite species containing two taxonomically distinct species, he had selected one of those species to be the species to which the name *Fasciola ovata* Rudolphi, 1803, should adhere ;
- (2) that the trivial name *ovata* Rudolphi, 1803 (as published in the binominal combination *Fasciola ovata*), as determined by Braun (1901), should be placed on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* ;
- (3) to render an *Opinion* recording the decisions specified in (1) and (2) above.

4. The following is the original reference for the name which appears in the decision set out in the immediately preceding paragraph :—

*ovata*, *Fasciola*, Rudolphi, 1803, *Archiv. Zool.* (Wiedemann) 3 (2) : 25

The reference to the selection by Braun of a lectotype for the nominal species *Fasciola ovata* Rudolphi, 1803, is : Braun, 1901, *Zbl. Bakt. (Abt. 1)* 29 : 12—19.



5. The decision taken in the present case was reported to, and approved by, the Section on Nomenclature of the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948, at its Fifth Meeting held on 26th July 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 5 : 107).

6. The Ruling given in the present *Opinion* was concurred in by the sixteen (16) Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners present at the Paris Session of the International Commission, namely :—

Beltrán *vice* Cabrera ; Boschma ; Bradley ; di Caporiacco ; Hemming ; Hindle *vice* Jordan ; Jorge *vice* do Amaral ; Kirby *vice* Stoll ; Lemche *vice* Dymond ; Mansour *vice* Hankó ; Metcalf *vice* Peters ; Riley *vice* Calman ; Rode ; Spärck *vice* Mortensen ; van Straelen *vice* Richter ; Usinger *vice* Vokes.

7. The Ruling given in the present *Opinion* was dissented from by no Commissioner or Alternate Commissioner present at the Paris Session.

8. At the time of the adoption of the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*, the expression prescribed for the second portion of the binomen which constitutes the scientific name of a species was the expression “ trivial name ” and the *Official List* reserved for recording such names was styled the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*, the word “ trivial ” appearing also in the title of the *Official Index* reserved for recording rejected and invalid names of this category. Under a decision taken by the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology, Copenhagen, 1953, the expression “ specific name ” was substituted for the expression “ trivial name ” and corresponding changes were made in the titles of the *Official List* and *Official Index* of such names (1953, *Copenhagen Decisions zool. Nomencl.* : 21). The changes in terminology so adopted have been incorporated in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*.

9. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly

hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

10. The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion* Two Hundred and Twenty-Seven (227) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London this Third day of December, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Three.

*Secretary to the International Commission  
on Zoological Nomenclature*

FRANCIS HEMMING

